

MARVEL



4

APPROVED
BY THE
MUTANT
CODE
AUTHORITY

STORM

*EXIT:
STORM?!*



NOCENTI
BORGES
DALHOUSE

OUT OF THE WATER
YOU'RE IN MY PLAY



John Romita

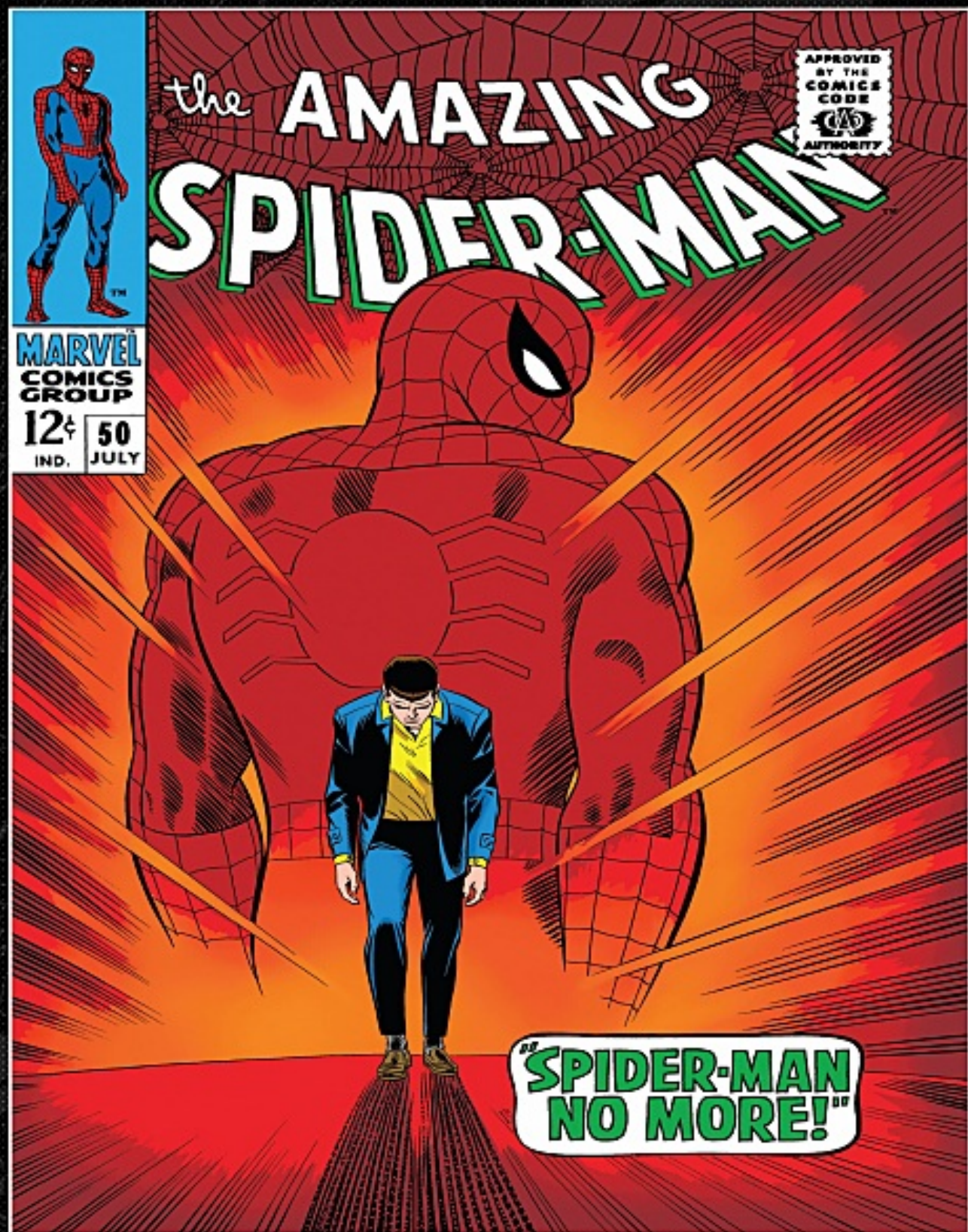
1930 - 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.





DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, pencilled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way."

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

ORORO MUNROE

HAS BEEN A GODDESS, A THIEF, AND A MEMBER OF AND LEADER OF THE X-MEN. WITH HER MUTANT ABILITY TO COMMAND THE WEATHER BOLSTERED BY HER TOP-NOTCH FIGHTING SKILLS, SHE'S A FORMIDABLE POWERHOUSE LIKE NO OTHER. SHE IS...



From appearance to demeanor, STORM's gone through some changes. Moreover, her powers have been acting erratically, culminating in an encounter with a strange creature, who seemingly rescued her from her own storm, leaving her in doubt of her impact on the world.

Meanwhile, Storm's new relationship with an inventor named TRAVIS has caused friction with the team. KITTY PRYDE investigated his background, discovering their old enemy MYSTIQUE is embedded as his business associate. Separately, LOGAN confronted Travis about his intentions with Storm, prompting her to quit the X-Men.

Before she could depart, the strange creature returned, identifying itself as BLOWBACK. Fearing that it was after Storm, the X-Men sent her away, attacking the creature with everything they had. In spite of their efforts, Blowback escaped, taking ROGUE with it. In the aftermath of the battle, Travis invited Storm to fly away with him to live in paradise...

BLOWBACK PART 4: THE ETERNITY COIL

ANN
NOCENTI
WRITER

GERALDO
BORGES
ARTIST

ANDREW
DALHOUSE
COLORIST

VC's ARIANA
MAHER
LETTERER

ALAN DAVIS &
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ
COVER ARTISTS

STACIE ZUCKER
LOGO DESIGN

JAY BOWEN
PRODUCTION


DREW BAUMGARTNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARK BASSO
EDITOR

JORDAN D. WHITE
SENIOR EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story takes place around the time frame of UNCANNY X-MEN #176.



"KITTY! WHERE'S
LOCKHEED?"

"TOOK TO
THE CHASE,
LOGAN."

"GUTSY DRAGON.
BLOWBACK'S FAST
AS THE WIND."

"WITHOUT STORM,
NONE OF US CAN
CATCH HIM."

"BACK TO
THE MANSION,
X-MEN, FAST."

"WE'LL GRAB
THE JET."



ELSEWHERE.

I SUPPOSEDLY
COME FROM A LONG
LINE OF SORCERESS
ROYALTY,
TRAVIS.

MY MOTHER
SAID MY GRAND-
MOTHER HAD THE
SAME WHITE HAIR
AND BLUE EYES
AS I.

SHE ONLY
SPOKE OF MY
GRANDMOTHER IN
WHISPERS, FAMILY
LEGENDS OF
HER SKILLS.

DID MY GRAND-
MOTHER CAST ANY
SPELLS OR PERFORM ANY
ELEMENTAL WEATHER
RITUALS?



SPELLCASTING AND
INVOKING ELEMENTALS
WAS OUTLAWED.
PRACTICED IN
SECRET.

MY ANCESTRAL
SORCERY WAS
ONLY SPOKEN OF
IN HUSHED
TONES.

SOUNDS
APOCRYPHAL.

I FOUND
THIS BIG VESSEL
IN YOUR LAB. I'VE
ISOLATED THREE
ELEMENTS I CONTROL,
TO SEE IF MY POWERS
ARE TRULY MUTATING.
HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND.

OF COURSE
NOT. IT'S A PLASMA
GLOBE. HAD IT BUILT
TO TEST MY
NEOTEK.









YOU CAN BE WHOEVER YOU WANT WITH ME. SORCERESS, BIKER, WIND-RIDER, PUNK, GODDESS, THIEF, WHOEVER YOU WISH.

WHAT DID THE ENTITY MEAN WHEN IT SAID I AM MY OWN SHADOW?



MANY CULTURES BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE A DOUBLE. ABORIGINALS BELIEVE OUR DREAM SELF IS AS IMPORTANT AS OUR WAKING SELF.

IS THERE ANY WAY I COULD BE MANIFESTING THIS BLOWBACK ENTITY?

LIKE HOW YOUR SORCERESS ANCESTORS CALLED ON POWERFUL SPIRITS?



EXACTLY. WHAT DID ROGUE SAY WHEN SHE TOUCHED IT?

SHE SHOUTED YOUR NAME. I ASSUME BECAUSE THE CREATURE IS AFTER YOU.

BOLT THE DOOR, OKAY? I'LL LET THE X-MEN KNOW YOU'RE SAFE. AND IF YOU FLY AWAY WITH ME, WE CAN TEST YOU FURTHER.



AND BOTTLE MORE OF MY ESSENCE?

ESSENCE OF STORM. SOUNDS LIKE A PERFUME LINE.

NOW THAT WOULD SELL LIKE HOTCAKES.



SOMEWHERE
IN THE WOODS.

SORRY
ABOUT THE
SHACKLES.

YOU
WERE WILD,
UNCONTROLLABLE.
BLOWBACK
POUNDED
YOU.

YOU CAN
BREAK THE
CHAINS. YOU
CAN ATTACK
ME.



BUT YOU
ARE SAFER WITH
ME. I RESCUED YOU
FROM THAT
BEAST.

AH MADE MY
MOVE, MYSTIQUE.
AH LEFT YOU FOR
THE X-MEN.

AND
HOW'S THAT
GOING?



SLOW. THEY
DON'T TRUST ME.
YET. KITTY'S THE
ONLY ONE WHO'S
EVEN TRIED.

IT SEEMS
BLOWBACK HAS
AMPLIFIED STORM'S
POWERS INTO SOME-
THING DESTRUCTIVE.
YOU'RE NOT SAFE
WITH THE
X-MEN.

AH I'M NOT
SAFE WITH YOU,
AH I'M NOT SAFE
ANYWHERE.

WHAM



"WHEN I FOUND YOU,
DESTINY PROPHESIZED IT
WAS FATE THAT BROUGHT
US TOGETHER, ROGUE.

"WE RAISED YOU
LIKE OUR OWN
DAUGHTER.

"I KNOW YOU, LITTLE ANNA
MARIE OF MISSISSIPPI, FAR
BETTER THAN ANY OF THE
X-MEN DO."





ALL THE MINDS YOU DRAIN WITH YOUR TOUCH. A FLOOD OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MEMORIES. NEVER KNOWING WHICH ONES ARE YOURS.

SO? US SOUTHERN GALS LEARN HOW TO GLIDE OVER TROUBLES WITH A JULEP AND A JOKE.



DON'T TRY TO DRAIN MY MIND.

I AM RAVEN DARKHÖLME AND HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

A MULTIPLICITY OF VOICES. HUMANS CALL IT MADNESS. YOU AND I KNOW BETTER.

Y'ALL MIGHT GET RUFFLED BY A RIOT OF VOICES. AH CALL THAT A PARTY.

I KNOW IT'S NO PARTY FOR YOU. YOU'VE TOLD ME HOW THE VOICES OF OTHERS LINGER AND MESS WITH YOUR OWN THOUGHTS...



WHO SPIT IN YOUR GRITS THIS MORNING? WHAT'S REALLY GOT YOU IN A TWIST?

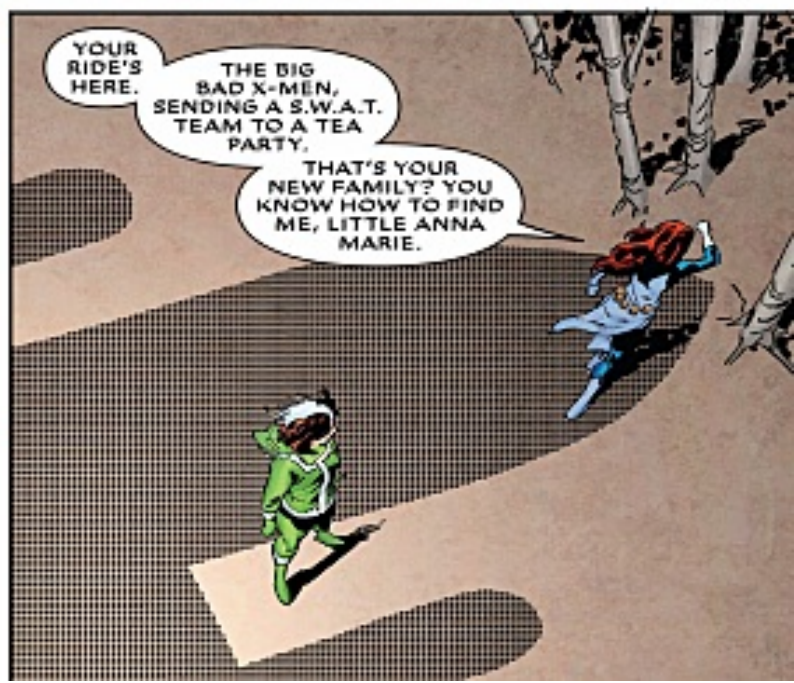
WHY DON'T Y'ALL JUST TELL ME THE TRUTH?



DESTINY AND I MISS YOU. WE WANT YOU TO COME BACK.

AH, NOW THE TRUTH COMES OUT. EVEN TOUGH OL' HARD-HEARTED RAVEN GETS HURT.

AH WOULD LIKE TO BE BACK WITH YOU, WHERE AH KNOW AH'M LOVED. BUT Y'ALL NEVER STOP LYIN'.



XAVIER'S SCHOOL,
LATER.

ROGUE STILL
ASLEEP?

YES. SHE INSISTS
I INVESTIGATE
HER MIND. FOR THAT,
SHE'LL NEED MORE
STRENGTH.

COULD BLOWBACK
BE SOME VERSION OF
STORM? CAN'T YOU
PEEK INTO STORM'S
MIND?

I NEED STORM'S
PERMISSION TO DO
THAT. SHE CAN RESIST
MY PSIONIC
PROBES.

HOW?
WISH I COULD
RESIST.

STORM'S
ELECTRICAL
VOLTAGE AURA.
SHE CAN DEFLECT
ME. AS CAN
MYSTIQUE.

WHAT IS THIS
EXPERIMENT? I SEE
YOU'RE RUINING THE
HOUSE VACUUM.

THIS IS ONE
OF TRAVIS' NEOTEK
GIZMOS. IT CAN DRAW
TOXINS OUT OF DIRTY
WATER.

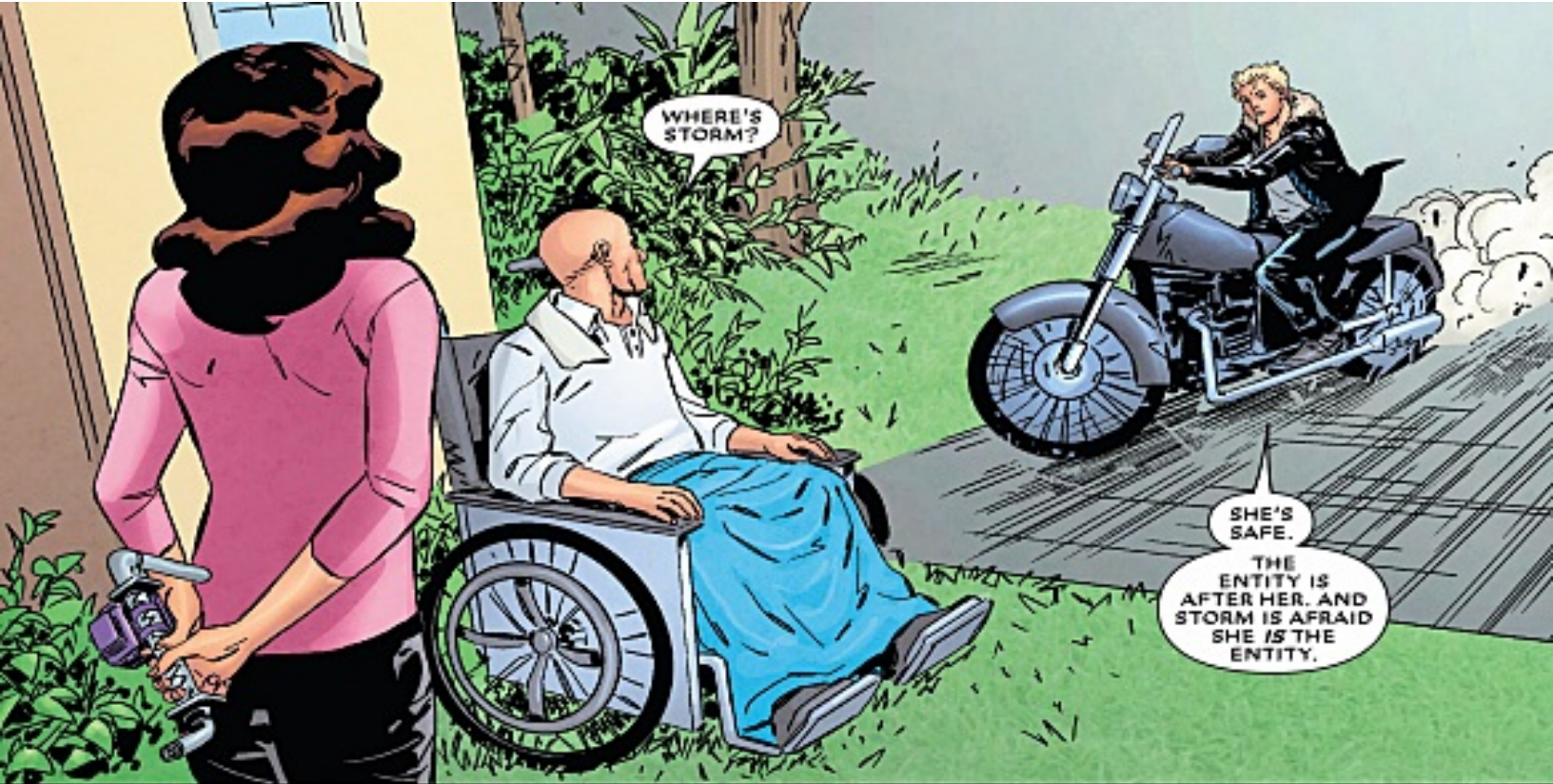
GREAT, HUH?
CLEAN WATER FOR
EVERYONE.

IT GIVES OFF
A SMELL. I ANALYZED
IT. MOSTLY NITROGEN,
HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN--
THINGS WE NEED
TO BREATHE.

BUT ALSO
SULFURIC ACID AND
HELIUM. ELEMENTS
FOUND IN DEEP
SPACE.

DEEP SPACE?
NOW WHY WOULD
THOSE ELEMENTS BE
USEFUL TO THIS TECH? DID
HE DEVELOP IT FOR USE IN
SPACE? GOOD WORK,
KITTY. I'M PROUD
OF YOU.

NOW HIDE
IT, QUICKLY.
TRAVIS IS
HERE.



WHERE'S STORM?

SHE'S SAFE.

THE ENTITY IS AFTER HER. AND STORM IS AFRAID SHE *IS* THE ENTITY.



LIAR.

DON'T WORRY, LOGAN. YOU WON. I'M LEAVING. AND I'M NOT COMING BACK.



I LOVE HER. I ASKED HER TO LET ME TAKE HER AWAY, SOMEWHERE SAFE.

I'M STILL HOPING SHE SAYS YES. BUT I ALSO KNOW SHE NEEDS TO BE WITH HER FAMILY.

WITH YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT, BUB. SHE'LL DECIDE WHAT SHE WANTS. NOW BEAT IT.



I DON'T DOUBT TRAVIS FELL IN LOVE WITH HER. STORM IS, AFTER ALL, MAGNIFICENT.

BUT IF BLOWBACK IS SOMEHOW IMPACTING STORM'S POWERS?

HER POWER COULD ESCALATE BEYOND HER CONTROL. WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE WORST.

TRAVIS' BOATHOUSE.

THAT FIRE
WARMED THE
PLACE UP.

IS THE CHILL
I FEEL FROM
THE WEATHER?
OR FROM FEAR?

AM I BRAVE ENOUGH
TO LEAVE THE X-MEN
FOR THIS SURPRISING
NEW LOVE?

LOGAN CLEARLY DOESN'T
LIKE TRAVIS. DO THE REST
OF THE X-MEN FEEL THAT
WAY TOO?

ASHES ARE GOOD
FOR ROSEBUSHES.
BUT NOT THIS WIRE.

THERE. WIRE COIL
BACK WHERE IT
BELONGS, ON THE
TINKERER'S BENCH.

CURIOUS BOOKS.
THE SHADOW? IT'S
WHAT THE ENTITY
CALLED ME.

AND THIS
ONE...

"A MAN WHO IS
POSSESSED BY HIS
SHADOW IS ALWAYS
STANDING IN HIS OWN
LIGHT AND FALLING
INTO HIS OWN
TRAPS..."

A CARL
JUNG QUOTE.
I SHOULD READ
THIS BOOK.



TRAVIS LOST
ONE OF HIS
WELDING
GLOVES.

DIDN'T I SEE ONE IN
THE OCEAN? I GUESS
HE LIKES TO TINKER
ON THE BEACH.



HE'S LIKE A
LITTLE CHILD,
LOSING ONE
MITTEN.

A CLASSIC
SCATTERBRAINED
SCIENTIST.

WHAT'S THIS?
A BAT WITH
A CAMERA
INSIDE?



WHAT
IS THAT
METALLIC
SCENT?

THE SMELL OF TRAVIS'
NEOTEK REMINDS ME...
OF SPACE. OF BEING
IN DEEP SPACE.

ALMOST AS IF IT'S
CALIBRATED FOR THE
WRONG ATMOSPHERE.



A MAN ON A
MOTORCYCLE,
BROKEN DOWN
ON THE SIDE
OF THE ROAD.

A MAN WHO
LOVES WEATHER
AS MUCH AS I DO.

A COINCIDENCE?
FATE? OR...NO.
NO, NO, NO, NO...

A SET-
UP?





I FELL IN
LOVE WITH
HER.

MEN, ALL
SAPS.

FINE.
IT'LL COST
YOU.



IN MY ONE
HUNDRED YEARS
OF LIFE, I'VE MET
MANY SHADOW
ENTITIES.

DOPPELGÄNGERS.
IT NEVER ENDS WELL
FOR YOUR KIND.

YOUR OWN
SHADOWS HAUNT
YOU. STALK YOU.
EVENTUALLY
KILL YOU.



DON'T PATRONIZE
ME, MYSTIQUE. I HAVE
STUDIED IT ALL. THE NATIVE
AMERICAN SPIRIT ANIMALS.
THE MONSTER FROM THE
ID, THE JEKYLL AND
HYDE OF IT ALL.

THERE IS
NO ESCAPE FROM
THE SUBCONSCIOUS,
FOR ANY OF
US.



I SHAPE-SHIFTED
INTO YOU SO YOU
COULD BE IN TWO
PLACES AT ONCE.
I LURED HER INTO
TRUSTING YOU.

YOU THINK
SHE FELL IN
LOVE WITH YOU?
I WAS WITH HER
MORE THAN
YOU.

PERHAPS
IT WAS ME SHE
FELL IN LOVE
WITH.





I NEGOTIATED LIKE A FOX. BROKERED YOUR PHONY NEOTEK INTO A FORTUNE. I KEPT UP MY END OF THE BARGAIN-- DID YOU?

DID YOU NEUTRALIZE STORM?
NO.

YOU HAVE MILLIONS LEFT.



WHAT'S MY MONEY DOING IN YOUR POCKET?



YOU PROMISED YOU'D TRAP STORM ON YOUR NEW ISLAND.

I'M NOT SURE SHE'LL GO WITH ME.



YOU CALL YOURSELF A GRIFTER? YOU'VE ONLY MANAGED TO GRIFT YOURSELF.



WITH CYCLOPS OFF ON A TRIP, PHOENIX DEAD, ROGUE IN MY HIP POCKET, YOU ONLY HAD ONE THING TO DO.

STEAL STORM'S HEART AND TUCK HER AWAY. WITH THE X-MEN SHATTERED AND LEADERSHIP SPLIT, OPPOSITION TO MY PLANS ARE GONE.

MAKE IT HAPPEN.



WHEN STORM FINDS OUT I LIED TO HER, SHE'LL LEAVE ME.

FIRST RULE OF THE HUSTLE: NEVER FALL FOR YOUR MARK.

OR THE BLOWBACK'S ON YOU.

THAT FIRST MOMENT
I MET TRAVIS. THAT
JACKET HE FLIPPED
OPEN TO SHOW ME
HIS WARES.



LIKE A STREET
HUSTLER SELLING
FAKE ROLEX WATCHES.
I REMEMBER I JOKED:
"SNAKE OIL SALESMAN?"

WANTED POSTERS?
WANTED BY WHO?

IS THAT WHAT LOVE
IS? INTUITING THE
FLAW BUT INSTANTLY
FORGETTING IT?



THE FIRST HINT OF
WHAT WILL END THE
AFFAIR IS RIGHT THERE IN
THE VERY FIRST GLANCE.



I'M A FOOL.
LOVE SWOOPED
IN, AND I TURNED A
BLIND EYE TO MY
OWN INTUITION.



A FEW WORDS OF
GERMAN TO ENCHANT
KURT. FLIRT WITH ROGUE.
SEDUCE THEM ALL.

TRAVIS. SO MUCH
CHARM. SO MUCH
CHARISMA.

CAN'T TRUST MY
POWERS. THEY'RE OUT
OF MY CONTROL.



NO MATTER.
I HAVE OTHER
SKILLS.



STORM?
IT'S ME. UNBOLT
THE DOOR?







ANOTHER TRICK? ANOTHER LIE? YOU POOR MAN. A MESSY BUCKET OF GUILT.

I FOUND YOUR WANTED POSTERS. AN INTER-GALACTIC BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD? YOU USED ME. LIED.

NO! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU. YOU AND ME, WE CARE ABOUT THE SAME THINGS. THIS IS REAL LOVE.



WHAT ABOUT ALL THE WALLETS YOU'VE STOLEN? ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE HURT IN FIGHTS?

FOR EVERY STORM YOU PULLED FROM THE SKY, HOW DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WASN'T SWEEPED UP AND AWAY EVERY TIME?



I DON'T KNOW, YOU'RE NOT WRONG ABOUT THAT. BUT WE BOTH KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT.

PLEASE. WALK AWAY. DO NOT THREATEN ME, OR ELSE.

OR ELSE WHAT? I AM NOT AFRAID OF YOU.



YOU'RE A WANTED MAN. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

SHUT UP! IF IT KNOWS THEY'RE AFTER US, IT WILL TAKE OVER!

IT? WHAT IS IT?

BLOWBACK.



BLOWBACK? HOW WILL THAT MONSTER HEAR US?

IT HEARS EVERYTHING. IT TRICKED ME. IT TOOK ME OVER AND FORCED ME TO DO THINGS.



JUST AS YOU START TO BE HONEST, YOU THROW ME A BONE OF YET ANOTHER LIE?

STOP! IT WILL TAKE OVER! RUN!

IT
IS TOO
LATE.

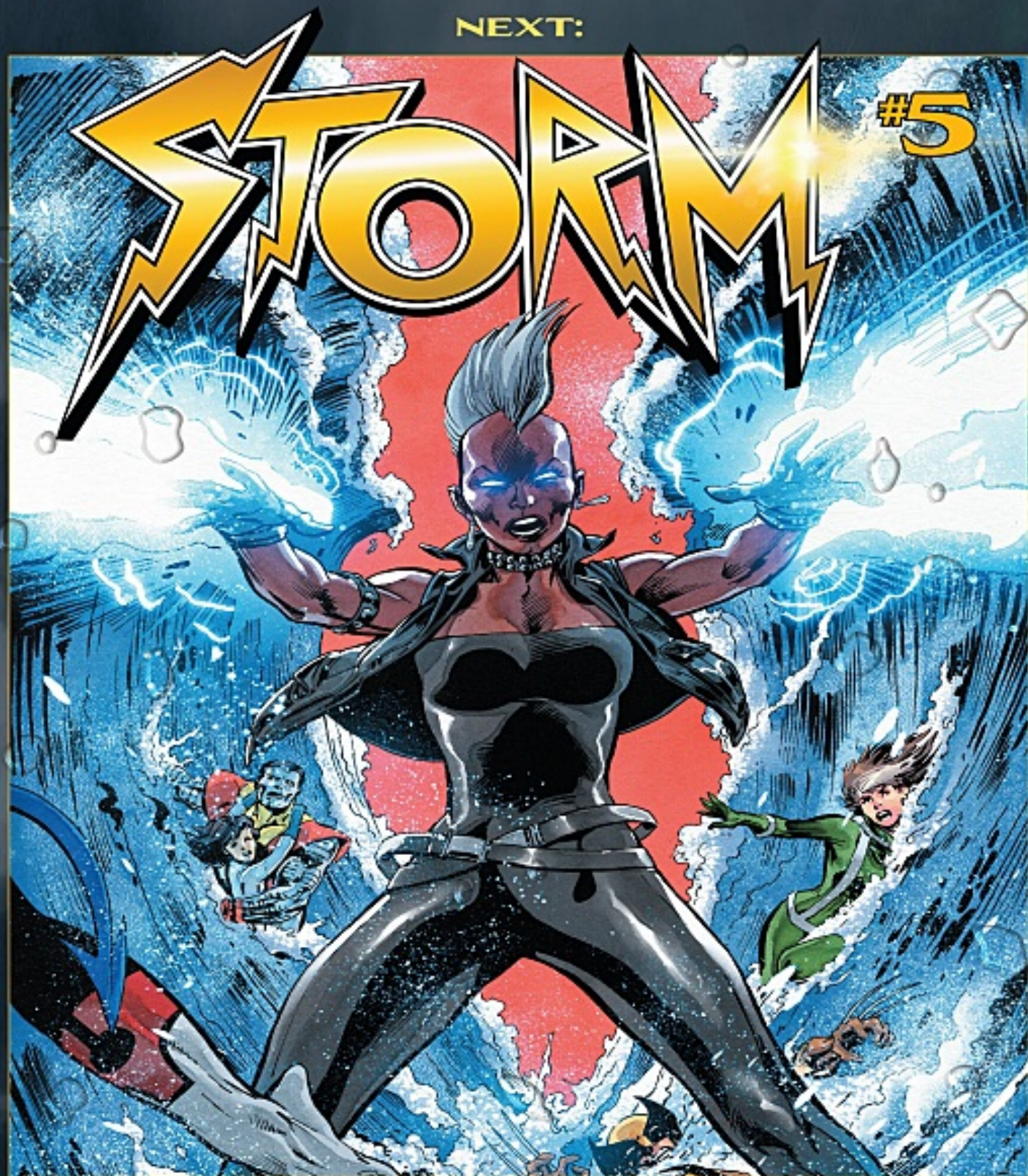
YOU
YANKED ME OUT.
HE IS WEAK. I AM
THE STRONG
ONE NOW.

YOU SAY WE
ARE WANTED BY
INTERGALACTIC
POLICE?

YOU
WILL HELP US
ESCAPE.

NEXT ISSUE:
GRIFT.

NEXT:



⊗ TEAM STORM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM MARKED "OKAY TO PRINT" FOR A CHANCE TO SEE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES! ⊗

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.



